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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,586	05/15/2004	Mats Sandborn	00173.0055.PCUS00	1558

28694 7590 02/09/2005

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EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 02/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/709,586

Applicant(s)

SANDBORN ET AL.

Examiner

Aaron M Dunwoody

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 May 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 9/7/2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the proper crosshatch is not illustrated for all elements. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date

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of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: Coupling Device Comprising A Leakage Groove.

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

The specification recites "the outer locking groove 30" and "the outer locking ring 30"; however, both statements cannot be correct.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitations "the casing surface" in 18, and "the radial plane" in line 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim 1 recites, "its axial outer end"; however, it is not clear to the Examiner what "its" is referencing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 6027144, Hagen et al.

In regards to claim 1, Hagen et al disclose a coupling device for conduits of pressurized media, the coupling device comprising: two coupling parts couplable together as a female part (2a,2b) and a male part (4) which is insertable into the female part; a locking device arranged to allow coupling of the male part with the female part and to, in an inner locking position, hold the coupling parts coupled together, the locking device comprises at least one locking member at one of the coupling parts that is arranged to, in the locking position, attach into a recess in the other coupling part with one or several sealing members being arranged to, in the locking position, achieve sealing engagement between the coupling parts, with the second coupling part having a further recess in which the locking member is brought into locking engagement of the coupling parts in an outer locking position at the coupling of the two coupling parts with each other, and in which outer locking position an incomplete sealing is achieved and in which the two coupling parts are locked and incompletely coupled together and thereby being prevented from coming apart and being allowed to be brought together to the inner locking position for a complete coupling of the coupling parts by means of which,

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in the presence of a pressurized media, an indication can be obtained that the outer locking position has been assumed due to the presence of leakage of pressurized media, and wherein the casing surface of one of the coupling parts exhibits a leakage groove which runs at an acute angle towards the radial plane of the coupling part with an axial inner end and an axial outer end, and is so positioned that in the inner locking position the leakage groove is positioned axially outside of the sealing member and in the outer locking position the axial inner end of the leakage groove is positioned axially inside of the sealing member and its axial outer end is positioned axially outside of the sealing member by means of which pressurized media can pass by the sealing member.

In regards to claim 2, Hagen et al disclose the leakage groove consisting of a spiral-shaped groove.

In regards to claim 3, Hagen et al disclose the leakage indication consisting of an audible leakage sound.

In regards to claim 4, Hagen et al disclose the leakage groove being arranged in a radially inward facing casing surface of the female part and the sealing member consists of a sealing ring arranged in a radially outward facing casing surface of the male part.

In regards to claim 5, Hagen et al disclose the female part, in the casing surface axially outside of the leakage groove, exhibits a conical wall and the male part exhibits, axially outside of the sealing ring, a second sealing ring that in the inner locking position is in sealing contact with the conical wall, and in the outer locking position leaves free

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passage for pressurized media via a ring shaped gap between the sealing ring and the conical wall.

In regards to claim 6, Hagen et al disclose a method for providing a coupling device for conduits of pressurized media, the method comprising: manufacturing two coupling parts which can be (capable of) coupled to each other in the form of a female part and a male part which is insertable into the female part, with a locking device allowing the coupling of the male part to the female part and which in an inner locking position holds the coupling parts completely coupled together, with at least one locking member at one of the coupling parts in the locking position attaching into a recess in the other coupling part, with one or several sealing members in the locking position achieving sealing between the coupling parts with the other coupling part, exhibiting a further recess in which the locking member is brought to locking of the coupling parts in an outer locking position when the two coupling parts are coupled to each other in which outer locking position there is in complete sealing, and in which the two coupling parts are locked and incompletely coupled together, so that they are prevented from coming apart, but are allowed to be further brought together to the inner locking position for the complete coupling of the coupling parts by means of which, in the presence of pressurized media, an indication that the outer locking position has been assumed can be obtained by means of the presence of leakage of pressurized media wherein upon the casing surface of one of the coupling parts there is made a leakage groove which extends at an acute angle towards the radial plane of the coupling part with an axial inner end and an axial outer end, and is so positioned that in the inner locking position,

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the leakage group is positioned axially outside of the sealing member and in the inner locking position the axially inner end of the leakage groove is positioned axially inside of the sealing member and its axially outer end is positioned axially outside of the sealing member, by means of which pressurized media can pass by the sealing member (6); and manufacturing the leakage groove together with at least some surfaces of the two coupling parts by means of rotating machining.

In regards to claim 7, Hagen et al disclose the relative rotational speeds, axial speed of movement and radial motion of the tool used for the rotating machining and the coupling part are synchronized so that the chosen extension of the leakage groove is obtained (implied).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the inventive concept of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 703-306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 703-306-5771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Aaron M Dunwoody
Examiner
Art Unit 3679

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